

a belt/belt sleeve having an endless body on the support, the body having a length extending around an axis and a radially inwardly facing surface and a radially outwardly facing surface;

at least one sheet of vapor-imperious film against and extending around the radially outwardly facing surface of the belt/belt sleeve body; and

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cont.
a vulcanizing vessel in which the belt/belt sleeve with the at least one sheet of vapor-imperious film thereon resides and in which a vulcanization process can be carried out,

wherein there are at least first and second layers of vapor-imperious film over the outwardly facing surface of the belt/belt sleeve body, the first layer having an edge between the axially spaced ends that over-/underlaps a part of at least one of the first and second layers.

REMARKS

It is the Board's position that claim 14 reads on an "airtight bag or envelope" (see August 22, 2002 Decision on Appeal, Paper No. 14, at pg. 4). Using this interpretation, the belt/belt sleeve would be slid into the film in the same manner as an individual's foot is directed into a sock. In Paper No. 16, the Board argues that it would have been obvious "to employ layers of different materials to obtain the additive benefits of each, or to employ multiple layers of the same material in order to obtain a stronger or more air tight barrier" (at pg. 3). A fair reading of this language is that one would use a multiple layer structure, with the multiple layers each defining a receptacle that is continuous over the full extent of the "cocoon".

As amended, claim 24 characterizes the belt/belt sleeve as having axially spaced ends. The first and second layers of the vapor impervious film are disposed over the outwardly facing surface of the belt/belt sleeve body, with the first layer having an edge between the axially spaced ends that over-/underlaps a part of at least one of the first and second layers.

An "airtight bag or envelope" does not have this structure. Perkins does not teach or suggest the structure as now recited in claim 24.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 24 and issuance of a Notice of Allowance with respect to claim 24 and the remaining allowed claims are requested.

Enclosed is the additional claim fee of \$84.00 for the new claim. Should additional fees be required in connection with this matter, please charge our deposit account No. 23-0785.

Respectfully submitted,



John S. Mortimer, Reg. No. 30,407

WOOD, PHILLIPS, KATZ,
CLARK & MORTIMER
500 W. Madison St., Suite 3800
Chicago, IL 60661
(312) 876-1800

Date: Nov 26, 2002

MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS

24. (rewritten in independent form and amended) [The] A treating system [according to claim 14] comprising:

a support;

a belt/belt sleeve having an endless body on the support, the body having a length extending around an axis and a radially inwardly facing surface and a radially outwardly facing surface;

at least one sheet of vapor-impervious film against and extending around the radially outwardly facing surface of the belt/belt sleeve body; and

a vulcanizing vessel in which the belt/belt sleeve with the at least one sheet of vapor-impervious film thereon resides and in which a vulcanization process can be carried out,

wherein there are [2-4] at least first and second layers of vapor-impervious film over the outwardly facing surface of the belt/belt sleeve body, the first layer having an edge between the axially spaced ends that over-/underlaps a part of at least one of the first and second layers.